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Cumberbund Place, Kensington - June 12 - '31
near London

Dear Lizzie,

First I must thank you for your nice letter which I received today, & in which you carry me right down to Beverly & make me quite long to be there! - The time for coming home seems indeed soon, a year yesterday since we sailed! - And now that the time grows near I begin to be very impatient; but there is an immense deal to do before then - We had letters also from Sue & John - I am glad Alice & the baby are getting on so well - So Charlie is really off! How I shall miss his visits at Cambridge - He has been my sweet, faithful visitor there - And I feel such a sort of charge over him I scarcely can consent to his living away! - Oh, dear me! How this world keeps changing!! - I was glad to hear Mary Hoopson was about again, much love to her from me! - Charlie said last week the Alderney had arrived - I hope she won't be too delicate, they say they have to coddle them up here in England, where I think they have no winter - But I am glad the Englishman & his wife promise so well - I hope father may get something like English cabbages from the seeds I sent - I believe I have not acknowledged last week's letters from Sue & Charlie - Many thanks for them, & pray believe they are always worth the postage - But to get back to my journal, poor journal! back so many weeks I dare not count - But now I mean to make it a business until I am up with dates again -

I left you at the Jardin des Plantes on Saturday, May 17 (yesterday) & that day we introduced Mr. Ward to his first French dinner at a restaurant - Dr. Gray told us while at dinner a funny anecdote, he had in the morning - He went, on his way to the Jardin, to a bookseller's, & trying to make a short cut across got out of the way, & stopping to enquire of a garde de ville, a man in a blouse with a tin sauce pan under his arm & a cap trimmed with braid, shewing he had been in some of the volunteer regiments, offered to escort him - So Dr. Gray put himself under his charge, & the man felt to talking & telling of his past life, & asking Dr. Gray what he as a stranger had seen in Paris, & telling him what he should see - "But," said he, "I can show you the world here, which strangers do not generally see - I will come for you tomorrow (Sunday) at 10 o'clock, & take you to some strange places" - They soon came to streets where Dr. Gray knew his way, & he would fain have dismissed his guide; but "no," he was a stranger, & his conscience would not allow him to leave a stranger alone in the streets of Paris - Sometimes he would reach a new street & be about to leave Dr. Gray after most minute directions, then his conscience came to the

alarm again & "he could not leave him!" He was just enough 'happy' not to be very reasonable - But imagine Dr. Gray walking the streets of Paris with this companion with his sauto-jean under his arm! At last when in sight of the gates of the garden he seemed to think Dr. Gray might find his way alone, but Dr. Gray could not persuade him to take any money. "What," he said for showing a stranger his way? "However he agreed to drink a glass of wine with him for good fellowship, & they turned into a little Cabaret which was near -

But the man would not touch his wine until he had Dr. Gray's address, that he might come the next morning at 9, to show him the work - So he drew a tablet out of his pocket, & selecting a leaf proceeded to clean it with the sleeve of his blouse & cutting in his pants, & when he considered it in 'super condition, handed it to Dr. Gray, who said the only way to get out of this difficulty was to write a fictitious address, & then the man having pocketed his tablets consented to drink, having first touched glasses, & then with many careful directions to Dr. Gray to walk down the street before him & onto the gate at the bottom, & protestations of friendship & respect, & promises to see him at 9 tomorrow morn^g, he took leave - On the way he told Dr. G. he had seen some in Paris, & took him a little detour to show him the marks of bullets left on doors & walls from one of the revolutions. - I thought it quite a pity he had not given the real address & gone to see the world in Paris. Sunday was a dull day with me again, I think I got too tired the day before, so I left in door & left Dr. G. & Mr. Ward to go to church alone. Madame Grand Priere & her husband called, & said they were off on Wednesday to London to see the Exposition, & we quite missed them in Paris - Monday we had appointed for a regular sight-seeing day, & a friend of Mrs. Ward's, an English lady staying at St. Cloud, came in to join us - So first we went to Notre Dame where Dr. Gray was to meet us - Morning service was over, but the Catholic churches are open in Paris all day, & a wedding was going on in one of the side chapels - The bride was very simply dressed, as she would be every day, only her cap had some orange buds in the border & she had a long white satin knot pinned to her bosom - But through pretty, I never saw an expression of more utter indifference, to all that seemed going on about her. There were only two or three people with them, & the husband who looked younger than she did, seemed much more interested by the ceremony - Meantime we were waiting for the Guide to let us into the interesting chapels around the choir - We were admitted with quite a party, & saw sundry chapels, some with fine funeral monuments, & in one an interesting picture of the death of the Arch-bishop on the ^{parcades} walls at the last revolution - In the vestry we were shown some magnificent robes presented by Louis Philippe to Notre Dame, enough to robe 30 priests - Red velvet & gold - Another ^{set} of gold & embroidered with beautiful colored flowers - I set also given

by Louis Philippe on the death of the Duke of Orleans - Black velvet beautifully embroidered with silver - Then we were shown Napoleon's Coronation robes, crimson velvet embroidered with gold - The cushion he sat upon, sundry gold things used in the ceremony; some magnificent church plate, among them one set with superb stones presented for the baptism of the Duke of Bordeaux, the present claimant of the title of Henry V - But I cannot remember all we saw, & enumerations of gold & jewels are not very interesting - After going the rounds of the chapels we were admitted into the choir - The present altar of white marble, & ridding, some bronze candelabra & a brass reading desk were presented by Napoleon for his coronation - Most of the ornaments besides, the marble facing, the theatrical statues, &c. & a series of pictures high up, none of which I think correspond with the Gothic architecture, were of the times of ^{presented by} Louis XIV & XV - The seats around are very fine oak carving, & scenes from the life of the Virgin carved in relief on the panels above, they are of the time of Louis XIII - I stood upon the spot where Josephine stood when crowned Empress, & Dr. Gray stood where Napoleon did, & I thought of Hill & his admiration of the great man whose traces are left everywhere in Paris. All the palaces still show splendid carvings & furniture of the time of the empire, for the taste & magnificence were so admirable that the kings who came after left them as they were - How full of romance French history, & how like a play, the characters come & go fast! - How dream like it seems, to be in Paris & try to realize it, & that it all has happened within the memory of one man! - From Notre Dame we went to the Palais de Justice - The ancient palace of Saint Louis, but for many years a sort of Court house - We peeped into a court where they were arguing, the judges & lawyers in black robes & with caps shaped horns on their heads, I like them better than English boys - One old corridor restored exactly as it was in the time of St. Louis, is interesting because at one end is a statue behind which the Chamber instantly bricked up the wall of Louis XIV on receiving it, that they need not put it on execution - It is handsomely adorned as a Court House, finished in such good taste, & convenient, & in such good order, & yet no show or unnecessary display - Our guide led us into a corridor, & pointing down to a grated door in the narrow court yard below, said it was where Marie Antoinette was confined - From this prison she went to the scaffold - The Sainte Chapelle is ^{among} the buildings contained in the Palais de Justice - But I told you about that last winter - It is a gorgeous little place, & this time were pointed out the place where was formerly the seat of Blanche & which was emblazoned with her arms, & the little window where Louis XI used to come privately to hear Mass - After taking some lunch at a Patisserie, we went to the "Attitude", & marching through Court yards, up stairs, through anti-chambers, & at length where sundry savants were "seated" before entering the hall, we were taking our seats to listen to the learned songs, when a man

stepped forward & with a smile told us ladies were not admitted; I was quite
winded, it is so disagreeable to get into places, especially among a crowd of men,
where one has no right. We took our way to the Louvre, hoping some one of its
many galleries might be open - but alas, all were still shut, & we received
the answer handed down from last winter "open in a fortnight." So then
Miss Pickens & I took our way back. Yesterday Evg. we went to see Bondin
the juggler, & as I told Dr. Gray, I came back creased believing in magic than ever
I did in any life - I never saw or could imagine anything so incomprehensible.
After some pretty puppets, which were certainly the perfection of machinery,
Bondin came in himself, & said he would show us now he could make
something out of nothing, & having nothing in his hands he was suddenly
wielding a staff; & then came a glass ball, which he seized & struck
into two, which he squeezed a smaller one from, & then put the two to-
gether; his sleeves were rolled back, his wrists bare, & he stood alone
in the middle of the stage, nothing near him. Then he had a tin cornu-
copia which opened with a ring, & he showed us quite empty, & then
took from it some two dozen pins, news papers, flowers, buttons, &c. &c.
& not standing in one spot where he would imagine he could supply
himself, but moving about all the time - Then he brought in a flat port-
folio, placed it on two light stools so that one could see quite underneath
it, took out first some points, then two bonnets, then copper sauce pans
large enough to hold 3 quarts, one full of coffee, another blazing & into wh.
he emptied another sauce pan full of water, all three coming from
this flat portfolio. He then said it was empty, & carried it to us to
see it was quite flat, but he complained it still felt heavy, &
putting it down pulled out a bird-cage with 6 live canaries in it, &
then took from the portfolio 3 live pigeons. Then a common claret
bottle was brought in on a waiter with wine-glasses, he first filled three &
emptied the bottle, & then rinsing it with water, & a waiter of liqueur glasses
being brought, he handed them round to the audience, & poured from this
one bottle, brandy, rum, riced, marschins, & every liqueur you can think of,
as fast as people could ask, & as quick as he could burn, here, there, everywhere.
Then tell me no more of clair-voynants. His son sat slinded on the stage & told what
ever was given into Bondin's hand; a coin, what counted, its date, my keys, how many,
&c. &c. & wrote on a slate the numbers written at the other side of the room,
& no sound made by anyone - His back turned & his forehead. I told Dr. Gray
I could not carry Phunt again to a place of amusement he was so little an
obscure still, he was so amused & delighted, clapping his hands &
'shouting with laughter.' But indeed it was quite incomprehensible, & I am
sure I might have sat by Will Smith in impunity, he could never have ex-
plained it -

Dr. Gray, 5 Cumberland Place, New near London, is all-purssant)
Please now let all my letters be directed to the date of my letter, until the
middle of July, when to Brown & Topley as usual - We shall let them, if they come direct
to New a day sooner - With most affectionate love to all, ever very lovingly
yours
Jan 2